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For the sake of the children

By Brenda Goh

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WORLD VISION: Victor Wong (left) and Jaymee Ong (right) hope to help better the lives of children.

INTERNATIONAL stars like Angelina Jolie and U2 frontman Bono aren't the only ones doing humanitarian work. Asian artistes are lending a helping hand to a good cause too.

Malaysian singer Victor Wong, more popularly known as Pin Guan, and Singapore-based actress Jaymee Ong have been appointed goodwill ambassadors by World Vision International.

The registered Christian relief organisation helps children, families and communities living in poverty.

The artistes follow in the footsteps of other celebrity ambassadors including actress Zoe Tay, nominated MP Eunice Olsen and singer Stefanie Sun.

Wong, 35, and Ong, 25, showed their commitment to their cause by visiting a World Vision-supported community in Ranong, Thailand, as well as a drop-in centre for street children in Phuket last month.

They met street children, child prostitutes and HIV/Aids-afflicted youngsters.

At a recent press conference at the World Vision office in International Plaza, Ong was tearful as she recalled their experiences.

'It's very hard when the people who are affected are children, but it's good to see World Vision making a difference there to better their lives,' she said.

Wong told how he was deeply moved after spending some time with a family of three children and their 80-year-old grandmother.

He said: 'This family had very little money as the grandmother earns only 300 baht (S\$13.96) each month.'

'She told us that she didn't want to die because there wouldn't be anyone to take care of the children.'

As World Vision ambassadors, Ong and Wong will also help to rally support for World Vision Singapore's flagship event, the 30 Hour Famine, next month.

In this annual event, more than one million young people worldwide help raise awareness of global hunger, poverty and HIV/Aids by participating in a 30-hour fast.

This year, it will be held from June 16 to 17 at Republic Polytechnic.

For more information, visit <http://www.30hourfamine.org.sg/>

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